

*We open a window to you on the network of ecomuseums of the Province of Turin  
a unique opportunity to enter the knowledge of the territory  
an archive of material culture made of memory, history, invention, landscapes  
an evocative representation of the roots of identity of our province.*

**Valter Giuliano**

Head of Culture of the Province of Turin

In 1995, the Province of Turin launched the "Material Culture Project" aimed at establishing a network of ecomuseums which hinge on the recognition of identity of a community with its own territory, with the scope to be activate some interventions of enhancement in base of the local specialties, building their own consciousness to contain the effects of global influences, while maintaining alive a dialectical discussion with other communities.

The research of their roots rang from collections of objects and documents, to the preservation of architectural and landscape heritage, the recovery of linguistic traditions, the memory of the "characters" who have animated a place, the music and the festivities that made the rhythm of the time, to the difficult episodes that have marked its history: moments of re-appropriation of the past to take aware choices at present and lay the foundations for the future, in a formulation of hypotheses of sustainable development by contributing to create the foundations for an innovative economy, and for the production of new jobs.

The Ecomuseum witnesses this process of interrogation of the territory: the intent on which based the ecomuseum project of the Province of Turin consists in putting in network the plurality of experiences, while ensuring conservation of specific features, and support its development through an action of maieutic accompaniment.

The project aims at creating a synergistic growth of the sites in which the dialogue between them, excepting for initiating a mechanism for opening and exchange, may prevent the phenomena of localism based on an excessive localistic pride, through the comparison. Therefore, in most cases the role of the Province was only stimulation, support and networking of projects born from the mobilization and active participation of local actors (local organisations, mountain communities, enterprises, voluntary groups, cultural associations, etc..) through research, video monitoring, surveys on handcraft activities, projects of museum education, development of European projects, and hybridization with the language of art. The Eco-museum Network of the Province of Turin, which includes eco-museums spread across the province, consists currently of the following thematic sectors: "The Ways of Textiles" (7 ecomuseums), "Memories of Water and Earth" (9 ecomuseums); "Soil and Subsoil" (9 ecomuseums), "The Time of Industry" (5 ecomuseums). To complete the network, the demo-ethno-anthropological museums participate, storming the area and witnessing the activities of peasants and mountain activities of the preindustrial period (10 valdese museums, 40 thematic museums, 18 ethnographic museums).

Within the Province of Turin the activities of the Project and the preparation of these pages refer to:

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